

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1773 to provide California communities with the ability to adequately address their local trauma and emergency center needs, including pediatric trauma centers. This measure strikes an appropriate balance by providing local discretion and requiring local governments to first demonstrate that an increase in fines will not reduce funding for other vital programs, such as victims restitution and police training, which rely on the same source of revenue.

Despite the safeguards in this bill, I am still concerned that implementation of a new penalty could reduce the overall imposition and collection of existing penalties. As a result, I am directing the Department of Finance to report annually on the amount of revenues collected as a result of this measure and any changes in the condition of the State Penalty Fund subsequent to the implementation of this fee.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger